

Home-based Child Care Study Committee Recommendations

1. Elimination of corporal punishment in nonregistered child care homes with the exception of family members dealing with their own children. (Corporal punishment is already prohibited by rule in registered child development homes and licensed child care centers.)

2. Posting in all provider homes:

- Stating that the provider is or is not registered, with the exception of family members who only take of children within their own family.
- Stating that corporal punishment is not allowed in non-registered child care homes (include exception for family members dealing with their own children).

3. Prevent registered sex offenders from interacting with children in licensed, registered, or nonregistered child care providers:

- Make it an aggravated misdemeanor for a licensed, registered, or nonregistered child care provider to allow a registered sex offender to be in the center or home or on the provider's property during the hours in which children are in attendance.
- Make it illegal for a person who is a registered sex offender to be in the center or home or on the property of a licensed, registered, or nonregistered provider during the hours in which children are in attendance except to drop off and pick up a family member who attends the child care provider.
- Exceptions:
 - a. The person is transporting a minor who is a child of the person to or from the child care provider.
 - b. The person is attending a parent-teacher conference regarding a minor who is a child of the person.
 - c. The person has been summoned to discuss the academic or social progress of a minor who is a child of the person.
 - d. The person is voting at the building in which the child care provider is located during the hours designated to vote.

If the person intends to be present for any other reason not enumerated above, the person shall first notify the administrative offices of the child care provider that the person intends to be present on the real property comprising the child care provider, and the person shall receive written permission from the child care provider prior to entering onto the real property comprising the child care provider.

4. Establish a work group

- Provide up to \$100,000 for the Department of Human Services, working in partnership with the departments of education, human rights, and public health and the Iowa empowerment board, to jointly establish a workgroup to address possible implementation of a mandatory system of registration for child care providers or a voluntary licensure system.

- The workgroup membership shall include representatives of the state child care advisory council and representative of registered and nonregistered providers.
- The workgroup shall submit a report with findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 15, 2008, regarding issues addressed by the workgroup.
- The workgroup shall address the implementation issues associated with a mandatory change in child care. The issues considered shall include but are not limited to planning for the phase-in of and costs for additional inspection visits of child development homes, increased expense for state child care assistance slots, state child care assistance reimbursement methodologies to reward quality, and other implementation issues.
- The workgroup shall cooperate with early childhood stakeholders and the private sector in addressing the many publicly supported programs and services directed to early childhood and issues involved with redirecting the programs and services to be part of a cohesive child care system.
- The issues addressed shall include professional development of workers, improving workforce, ensuring articulation between programs, meeting the needs of both children and parents, enhancing community engagement to support early childhood, and other efforts to address early childhood needs with a coordinated system.
- In addition, the workgroup should explore the following issues:
 - Use of the Internet to provide information to child care providers, opportunity to register online, and training information.
 - Creation of a data base of all providers.
 - Streamline and coordinate inspections of in-home child care providers.
 - Providing health care insurance for providers and their workers.
 - Educating the public on the advantages of using a registered child care provider.
 - Developing possible sanctions for violations at child care facilities short of closing them down.
 - Requiring a state and federal fingerprint background check for all licensed and registered child care providers, as well as nonregistered providers caring for kids on the state child care program.
 - Provide additional opportunities/resources for child care providers and instruct ISU Extension, child care resource and referral agencies, and community colleges to expand continuing education opportunities at times the providers are not providing care.
 - Implementation of an electronic benefit transfer program to pay for state child care assistance.